

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SECSTATE FOR EUR/WE; EUR/RPM
USICA FOR PGM/F

SUBJECT: MADRID PRESS REACTION TODMAN

1. SOCIALIST-ORIENTED NEWSMAN FEDERICO ABASCAL
COMMENTS ON AMBASSADOR TODMAN FOR MADRID PERIODICAL
"CINCO DIAS" (APOLITICAL ECONOMIC MAGAZINE) OF JUNE
24. ARTICLE IS HEADLINED "TODMAN, AN AMERICAN
WARNING." TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. "THAT INEFFABLE, EXPENDABLE, AND UNFORGETTABLE
COUPLE WHO RECENTLY MANAGED U.S. DOMESTIC AND
FOREIGN POLICY, MR. NIXON AND MR. KISSINGER,
RESPECTIVELY THE WRAPPINGS AND THE BRAINS OF A
GREAT COUNTRY, HELD ALL OF THE KEYS TO THE FUTURE
OF EUROPE, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE FUTURE OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN. AFTER ITS VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II, .
AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AND AMERICAN OCCUPATION ARMIES
IMPOSED A KING UPON GREECE, ESTABLISHED A CHRISTIAN-
DEMOCRAT REPUBLIC IN ITALY AND CONSOLIDATED A
DICTATORSHIP IN SPAIN. THE PASSING YEARS HAVE
CHANGED THE SITUATION CONSIDERABLY: THE GREEK KING
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LIVES TODAY IN EXILE; THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC TENDS
TO BECOME "CARRILLO" COMMUNIST; AND THE REPRESSIVE
LAWS OF FRANCOISM ARE BEING OFFICIALLY DISMANTLED
IN SPAIN. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THE AMERICAN
SECRETARY OF STATE IS SENDING A NEW AMBASSADOR TO
MADRID. HIS NAME IS TERENCE TODMAN, AND HE HAS A
DECIDEDLY AUTHORITARIAN PROFILE. ARE WE FACING AN

IMMINENT THREAT?

3. "IN THE DAYS OF THE NIXON-KISSINGER COUPLE, THINGS WERE QUITE CLEAR. NIXON COULD TRAVEL TO PEKING IN A SPECTACULAR DIPLOMATIC ABOUT-FACE SO THAT 800 MILLION HOSPITABLE AND ENTHUSIASTIC CHINESE COULD 'REELECT' HIM IN THE AMERICAN GENERAL ELECTIONS DURING THE VISIT OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT. (IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT PING-PONG DIPLOMACY MEANT NIXON'S ELECTORAL VICTORY OVER HIS VAGUE ADVERSARY.) NIXON COULD CREATE LINKS OF UNDYING FRIENDSHIP WITH SOVIET LEADERS; HE COULD ENCOURAGE ROMANIAN INDEPENDENT FEELINGS; HE COULD DO ANYTHING, BECAUSE MR. KISSINGER CAME AFTER HIM PUTTING OUT THE FIRES. WE STILL REMEMBER THE FIRE PUT OUT BY MR. KISSINGER ON THE EVE OF THE MOST RECENT ITALIAN ELECTIONS: 'NO COUNTRY SHOULD BELONG TO NATO IN WHOSE GOVERNMENT THERE IS COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION...' IT WAS A WARNING, AN INTERFERENCE, AN INSOLENT, A 'DIKTAT.' BUT ITALIANS WENT TO THE POLLS IN FREEDOM.

4. "AND ABOUT SPAIN, NOT A WORD. WASHINGTON HAS RECEIVED THE VISIT OF KING JUAN CARLOS AND OF PREMIER SUAREZ; IT HAS BEEN MONITORING THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL TRANSITION WITH REAL OR FEIGNED NEUTRALITY; IT HAS KEPT AMBASSADOR STABLER IN UNCLASSIFIED

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MADRID AS AN ACTIVE OBSERVER; IT HAS FURNISHED A FEW LOANS.

5. "AND THAT IS ALL. BUT THE TRANSITION PERIOD -- THE DISMANTLING OF THE FRANCOIST LAWS -- IS COMING TO AN END AND THE CARDS OF THE GREAT INTERESTS ARE BEGINNING TO BE PUT ON THE TABLE OF DEMOCRATIC NORMALITY. HOW IS MR. TODMAN, THE NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, BEING PRESENTED?

6. "AS IT IS KNOWN, SPANISH PRESS CORRESPONDENTS POSTED IN WASHINGTON ATTENDED AN 'IMPROMPTU' PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY MR. TODMAN, IN WHICH THE NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR CONCEALED HIS PROVEN PRAGMATISM UNDER A CLOAK OF BENEVOLENT PATERNALISM. ACCORDING TO MR. TODMAN, WASHINGTON WILL ACCEPT THE DECISIONS OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE ABOUT 'WHO ARE TO GOVERN IN SPAIN.' VERY WELL. BUT DOES THAT NEUTRALIST ATTITUDE NOT HIDE THE VEILED SUGGESTION THAT THOSE DECISIONS MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED? THE FACT OF GIVING UP SMOKING DOES NOT MEAN ONE LACKS CIGARETTES.

7. "AND THERE IS ANOTHER SENTENCE IN MR. TODMAN'S STATEMENTS THAT SHOWS THE SERIES OF PRESSURES AMERICAN DIPLOMACY MIGHT EXERT IN THE FUTURE ON SPAIN: 'SPAIN AND THE U.S. SHARE A COMMON INTEREST IN PROMOTING AND MAINTAINING THE STRENGTH AND SECURITY OF THE WEST.' THE STRENGTH ALSO, MR. TODMAN? THERE ARE SECTORS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LEFT,

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OR THE MAJORITY OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LEFT, WHICH WOULD PREFER AN ARMED AND WATCHFUL NEUTRALITY FOR SPAIN.

8. "POSTING MR. TODMAN IN MADRID IS INTERPRETED AS A WASHINGTON WARNING, APART FROM WORDS, ABOUT THE INTEREST IT FEELS IN FOREIGN POLICY SPANISH DIPLOMACY MIGHT EVOLVE THROUGH PARLIAMENT. A STRONG MAN FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS SUCCEEDING MR. STABLER, A CONSTANT HOLDER OF DIALOGUES DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS. DOES A DANGER THREATEN US? SOMEHOW OR OTHER, SPANISH DIPLOMACY, ALTHOUGH COMMITTED, MUST FIND A STRATEGY SUITABLE TO AVOID BEING SUFFOCATED BY THE DIFFERENT BLOCKS." RYLAND

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